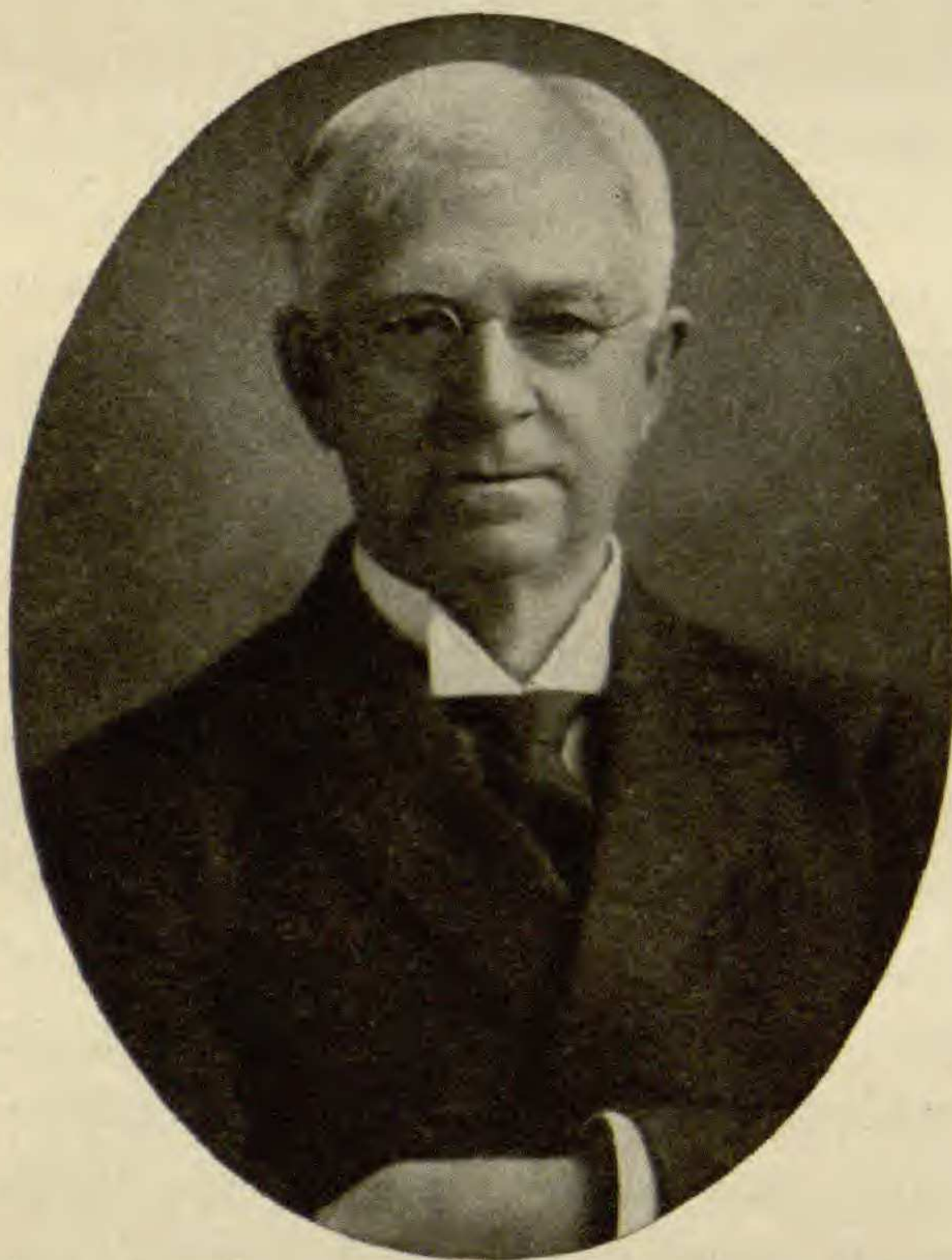


## BRIEFER ARTICLES

EDWARD LEE GREENE

(WITH PORTRAIT)

In the passing away of Dr. EDWARD LEE GREENE we have lost one of our most eminent botanists. As a correspondent writes: "A gap is thus made in the ranks of American botanists that can never be filled. His investigations during his long period of activity have added greatly to the knowledge of North American plants." His death occurred



*From photograph by Bachrach, Washington, D.C.*

in Providence Hospital, Washington, D.C., November 10, 1915, after a long illness. He was born in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, in 1843, and was therefore seventy-two years old at the time of his death. He graduated from Albion College, in Wisconsin, in 1866, and was educated for the ministry, being for fourteen years an Episcopal clergyman. In 1885, however, he gave up his parish and joined the Catholic church. From 1885 to 1895 he taught botany in the University of California. From 1895 to 1904 he was professor of botany in the

Catholic University of America, at Washington, D.C.; and from 1904 until his death was associate in botany in the United States National Museum. He served his country during the Civil War and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

For many years he was simply a collector of plants, sending his specimens to others to name or describe, although occasionally he sent

short notes to botanical publications, one of which was published in this journal as early as 1876. About 1888 he began to write extensively, describing especially new genera and species, and this he continued without interruption until the time of his death. The number of species which he has described may safely be estimated at considerably over 3000.

For many years he was a vigorous advocate of nomenclature reform, and while many of his ideas were good, he was always considered radical and he had few if any disciples. He had extreme views on the limitations of species, which led someone to describe him as a second RAFINESQUE, a sobriquet which sometimes pleased and sometimes irritated him, depending on his mood. He was indeed a man of many moods and fancies; was often shy but never timid; always had many friends and many enemies. He was egotistical, sometimes to the point of being ludicrous, and yet to many of us who knew him well he was always a delight and an inspiration. He was fond of music and cards, was a charming host, and a welcome guest in many homes. He lived a quiet life, usually alone with his pets, often doing his own cooking and housework. He was wont to take long walks alone in the fields and woods. In early life he tramped over a good part of Colorado and California in search of rare plants. He loved plants for their own sake and grew many of the wild flowers in his garden. He was a keen observer, and as he was so familiar with plants in their native haunts, his observations and conclusions were always worthy of consideration.

Dr. GREENE'S education had been thorough, his knowledge of the classics profound, and of the early botanical writers simply marvelous. His botanical writings, while extensive, were chiefly made up of short papers. He preferred to write strong forceful reviews, to monograph small genera, or to publish a few pages of new species. His early papers on the botany of the Pacific Islands are little gems. He delighted in coining original and striking generic names, like *Lilaeopsis* and *Ibervillea*; he was original in everything he did. His style was often quaint, but pure. The names of his publications were often unique and have often been imitated. His full bibliography would fill several pages of this journal. This will doubtless be prepared and published later; but his most important works were *Pittonia*, a series of papers relating to botany and botanists (five volumes); *Leaflets* (two volumes); *The West American oaks*; and *The landmarks of botanical history*. His "Carolus Linnaeus," an address delivered on the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of LINNAEUS, is one of his best short papers. In December, 1914,

he began a new serial, *Cybele Columbiana*, but only one number appeared. His name is commemorated in the genus *Greenella* and in many specific names.—J. N. ROSE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.*

## THE POLLINATION OF ASCLEPIAS CRYPTOCERAS

(WITH ONE FIGURE)

*Asclepias cryptoceras* is one of the largest flowered asclepiads of the Rocky Mountain region, and although it has a large range over Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho, it is seldom common. It is not easily for-



gotten when once seen growing on a loose, barren hillside, with its deep red and pale green flowers, with their wonderful fragrance and bizarre form, resembling nothing so much as a jewel in a setting. Because of this peculiarity of structure I propose the vernacular name of "jewel milkweed" as being appropriate. The unusual form is of course due to peculiar insect relations.

The general mechanism of a milkweed flower is well known and a brief recapitulation is all that is necessary here. The asclepiadaceous flower appears externally to consist of the usually reflexed petals and sepals and of the so-called "column," which is surrounded by five "hoods" out of which usually arise five hornlike processes. Between the hoods and on the side of the column are five slits which are usually wedge-shaped, having the larger and open end toward the bottom of the column. The small black bodies which are visible externally at the upper end of the slits are known as corpuscula, and to them are fastened by means of hidden bands the adjacent pollen masses or pollinia of two neighboring anther cells, one on either side of the slit. A corpusculum may be likened to a paper clip and has a wedge-shaped opening on the lower end.